

Health Alert: Measles in Children Recently Adopted From China - 6 April, 2004

A laboratory confirmed case of measles has been reported in an 18-month old child recently adopted from China by a King County family, and four additional suspect cases among children adopted during the same time are under investigation. A group of families including five from King County traveled to China in March for the adoptions. At this time we believe the exposure period was approximately March 16-26, while the children were in contact with one another in China. It is possible that additional cases will occur among children who were exposed to measles in China, and among persons in contact with measles cases who became symptomatic after arrival in the U.S.

King County healthcare providers are requested to be vigilant for measles among all persons in the community with symptoms compatible with measles, particularly among children recently adopted from China and their family members and social contacts.

Measles clinical case definition: An illness characterized by all of the following:

- A generalized rash lasting 3 or more days
- A temperature greater than or equal to 101.0° F (greater than or equal to 38.3°C)
- Cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis

NOTE: *Measles cases may present with a nonspecific febrile illness before onset of the characteristic rash.* The incubation period for measles is generally 7-18 days and the communicable period is approximately 5 days before rash onset to 4 days after rash onset. Measles cases should be treated with standard and airborne precautions in the hospital setting.

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

- Positive serologic test for measles immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibody
- Significant rise in measles antibody level by any standard serologic assay
- Isolation of measles virus from a clinical specimen

Healthcare providers can find information on locations where measles transmission may have occurred on the Public Health website, www.metrokc.gov/health/providers/epidemiology/measles2004.htm beginning 7 April 2004.

Please report suspected measles cases in King County immediately to the Public Health-Seattle & King County Communicable Disease Epidemiology, Control & Immunization Section at (206) 296-4774.

When possible, call Public Health while the patient is present in the clinical setting. Public Health can offer assistance with the collection of appropriate specimens for laboratory confirmation of measles, with timely routing of specimens to the Public Health Laboratory, and with management of exposures to measles among healthcare workers and other contacts of the patient.

For more information about measles, please see:

Public Health – Seattle & King County website: www.metrokc.gov/health

CDC's measles web page at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/diseases/measles/default.htm>